

Remarks

Claims 1-9 are pending and are under consideration.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9 are amended.

Claims 1 and 4 are amended to include the limitation of original claim 9 that the transporting plate (1a) is connected to a crane arrangement by a cable (1e).

Claims 1 and 4 are also amended to state that the transporting unit (1) comprises on its lower side the transporting plate (1a) for carrying the Big Bag. This is supported by Fig. 3, the first full paragraph of page 4, and original claim 4.

Claims 1 and 4 are also amended to state the transporting plate with the Big Bag is lowered by the crane into the sluice means. This is supported by the Figures and the first full paragraph of page 4 of the disclosure.

Claim 5 is amended to delete "tubular" to have proper antecedent basis.

Claim 8 is amended to have proper antecedent basis.

Claim 9 is amended to remove redundant matter.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for reasons of record.

The Examiner asserts that "sluice means" is employed to mean "channel" or "chamber" while the accepted meaning is "an artificial channel for conducting water, with a valve to gate or regulate flow".

The present term "sluice means" is discussed in the specification in the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3. It has a tubular structure. It is correct that the term is derived from hydraulic engineering. The priority application is in German. The equivalent German term "schleuse" is not

restricted to hydraulic engineering. The present term clearly means a channel or chamber which receives the Big Bag. This is also clear from the first full paragraph of page 4 of the disclosure.

Claims 5 and 8 are amended to have proper antecedent basis.

In view of the present amendments and the above remarks, Applicants submit that the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejections are addressed and are overcome.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riemens, et al., NL 1015987C in view of Schmidt, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,293,318.

The present claims are amended to clearly distinguish over the cited art. The present lower transporting plate (1a) carrying the Big Bag is connected via a cable (1e) with a crane arrangement, as shown in Fig. 1. After sealing off the sluice means (2) by upper part (1k), (1f) (see Fig. 3) of the transporting unit (1), the transporting plate together with the Big Bag can be lowered by the same crane arrangement which is used for transporting the Big Bag together with the transporting unit. The same driving motor at the crane arrangement can be used for moving the Big Bag outside the sluice means and inside it (paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4).

The presently claimed structure cannot be derived from the cited art.

Applicants submit that in light of the present amendments and above discussion, that the 35 USC 103(a) rejections are addressed and are overcome.

In light of all of the above, Applicants submit that each of the claim rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Petition for a 1 month extension of time